

Appl. No. 10/719,786
Docket No. 9431
Amdt. dated 6 December 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed on August 10, 2006
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said ~~surface aberrations~~ depressions are arranged in a pattern.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The tampon according to Claim 5 ~~therein~~ wherein said pattern is selected ~~form~~ from the group consisting of diagonal lines, straight lines, checkerboard and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said ~~surface aberrations~~ depressions are evenly spaced.

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said ~~grooves~~ protuberances are arranged in a pattern.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said pattern is selected ~~form~~ from the group consisting of diagonal lines, straight lines, checkerboard and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said ~~grooves~~ protuberances are evenly spaced.

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

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Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A tampon for feminine hygiene comprising an insertion end, a withdrawal end, a length, a longitudinal axis, a radial axis, and an outer surface;
said tampon being comprised of compressed fibrous material;
wherein a measured portion of said outer surface of said insertion end comprises a first surface area and a measured portion of said outer surface of said withdrawal end comprises a second surface area, said first surface area being different than said second surface area, wherein at least a portion of said first surface area comprises ~~grooves~~ depressions having at least one shape, wherein said ~~grooves~~ at least one shape ~~is are~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~longitudinal grooves, horizontal grooves~~ ovals, circles, rectangles, trapezoids, triangles, cones, squares, spirally shaped, rectangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons, heptagons, octagons, nonagons, decagons, parallelograms, rhombuses, trapeziums, alphanumeric, animal shapes, trademarks, logos, foreign languages, kanji, ASCII, and mixtures thereof, wherein ~~said grooves have a length less than 5 mm~~, wherein at least a portion of the said first surface area further comprises ~~surface aberrations~~; and
~~wherein said surface aberrations are protuberances.~~

Claims 14-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein the fibrous material of said tampon has an essentially uniform density over a cross-section of the tampon.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said tampon further comprises a core which is highly compressed.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said withdrawal end further comprises a finger indent.